AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) During the last three Years i.e. 1993-94 to 1995-96 7 retail outlet dealerships each in Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka were allotted by the Government under discretionary powers. No retail Qutlet dealership was allotted in Kerala. Out of the above, 3 dealerships in Madhya Pradesh are yet to be commissioned. The delay in commissioning has been mainly owing to the problem faced by the allottees in obtaining suitable land site, and in one case because of court's stay.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Waiting List for LPG Agencies and Connections in Rajasthan

2137. SHRI RAMDAS AGGARWAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of applications for LPG agencies in the waiting list at present in Rajasthan;

(b) the number of LPG agencies allotted till date and the number of LPG agencies still to be allotted;

(c) the number of consumers, district-wise;

(d) the number of waiting list of LPG consumers till date, district-wise;

(e) by when the waiting list of consumers would be cleared;

(f) whether there is an acute shortage/ supply of LPG cylinders in Rajasthan; and

(g) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The details are as under:

	(As on 1.10.1996)		
Wating list	Agencies allotted	Agencies still to be allotted	No. of consumers
7.26 lakhs	222	60	9.60

(c) New LPG connections are released in a phased manner throughout the country including Rajasthan, depending upon the availability of LPG new customer enrolment plan, waiting list, slack available with the distributors of the area and their viability. LPG is not an allocated product and no advance allocation is made. All the people in the waiting list in the country are likely to be provided with LPG connections in the next four/five years.

(f) and (g) The demand of the existing consumers of LPG in the country including Rajasthan, who are enrolled with the distributors of public sector oil companies is, by and large, being met in full at present. Temporary backlogs that may arise are cleared by augmenting LPG supplies through operation of bottling plants for extended hours and on holidays and by arranging supplies from bottling plants in adjoining areas. Temporary shortage, experienced in Sept.,Oct., 1996 has been generally overcome in different markets.

Employment to Rural Youths

2138. DR. B.B. DUTTA: Will the Minister of RURAL AREAS & EMPLOYMETN be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons unemployed in rural areas in the country during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the number of persons in rural areas provided employment through various central schemes during each of last five years, State-wise; and